[1st September 1959

Holidays and working hours for Government offices

* 38 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of holidays and also increase the number of working hours of the Government offices and staff?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: No, Sir.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: May I know whether the Central Government have recommended to this Government a reduction in the number of holidays in our State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There is no recommendation as such. But generally the opinion is being expressed that we should cut down the number of holidays.

SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Government consider the question of increasing the number of working hours for the Government employees and declaring Saturday and Sunday as holidays?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I would be happy if they work efficiently and effectively during the hours of work now prescribed. I do not think that by increasing the number of hours of work, we will be able to turn out better work.

Prohibition offences

* 39 *Q.*—SRI S. LAZAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the percentage of reduction of Prohibition offences subsequent to the recent amendment of the Madras Prohibition Act providing for increasing the punishment?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: 32 per cent in 1958 and 30 per cent in 1959.

SRI S. LAZAR: In view of the encouraging results which the Amended Act has produced, may I know what steps Government have taken to implement this Act more intensively? Have they increased the strength of the squad engaged in booking these offenders?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Amended Act is being implemented all right. There are also subdivisional mobile parties throughout the State to strike at the centres of distillation.

Tiruvanaikoil Kolumantap

* 40 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Tiruvanaikoil Kolumantap, Tiruchirappalli, has collapsed on 3rd June 1959: and